

REMARKS

Claims 1–54 are pending, with claims 1, 19 and 37 being independent. Claims 1, 15, 19, 33, 37 and 51 have been amended. Claims 14, 32 and 50 have been canceled. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7–9, 13–18, 25–27, 31–36, 43–45 and 49–54 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to rewrite these claims at a later time.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1–6, 10–12, 19–24, 28–30, 37–42 and 46–48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,640,200 issued to Michael, which describes golden template comparison using efficient image registration. Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, independent claims 1, 19 and 37 have been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claims 14, 32 and 50, respectively. These amendments have been made to expedite prosecution. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

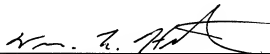
CONCLUSION

The foregoing comments made with respect to the positions taken by the Examiner are not to be construed as acquiescence with other positions of the Examiner that have not been explicitly contested. Accordingly, the above arguments for patentability of a claim should not be construed as implying that there are not other valid reasons for patentability of that claim or other claims.

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, claims 1-13, 15-31, 33-49 and 51-54 should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice of allowance is respectfully requested. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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